

At page 1, line 21, please replace "March 7, 1992" with --March 7, 1995--.

At page 2, line 1, please replace "07/837,850" with --07/837,650--.

At page 2, line 2, please replace "December 31, 1995" with --October 31, 1995--.

At page 2, line 3, please replace "December 8, 1989" with --December 5, 1989--.

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed based on the outstanding Office Action in copending application Serial No. 09/513,047.

Applicant has amended the claim to priority to address certain issues raised by the Examiner in the "Priority" section of the outstanding Office Action in said copending application, which issues appear to be equally applicable to the present application. Applicant apologizes for any inconvenience to the Examiner caused by any typographical errors in the claim to priority.

With regard to the Examiner's statement that Serial No. 07/446,231 is not a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 07/266,537, Applicant submits as Appendix A the following: (1) a copy of the "Continuation-in-Part Declaration and Power of Attorney" filed in 07/446,231 showing a claim to priority to 07/266,537 (see page 2 thereof); and (2) a copy of the first two pages of the 07/446,231 specification listing a claim for priority to 07/266,537 (see first two lines of Cross-Reference section thereof).

With regard to the Examiner's statement that Serial No. 07/837,650 is not a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 07/446,231, Applicant submits as Appendix B the following: (1) a copy of the 312 Amendment filed in 07/837,650 making a continuation-in-part claim for priority to 07/446,231 (see page 2 thereof); and (2) a copy of the cover page of U.S. Patent

5,463,305 (i.e., Serial No. 07/837,650) stating that 07/837,650 is a continuation-in-part of several applications, including 07/446,231.

With regard to any claim that Serial No. 07/266,537 does not have a parent application, Applicant submits as Appendix C the following: 1) a copy of the "Continuation-in-Part Declaration and Power of Attorney" filed in 07/266,537 showing a claim to priority to 07/168,352 (see page 2 thereof); (2) a copy of the first two pages of the 07/266,537 specification listing a claim for priority to 07/168,352 (see first two lines of Cross-Reference section thereof); and (3) a copy of the filing receipt in 07/266,537 confirming that the Attorney docket number is indeed 6599 (shown on the copies listed in (1) and (2) immediately above).

Based on the foregoing, Applicant believes that the Cross-Reference section is correct. Applicant also points out that, irrespective of the Examiner's comments, the first and last paragraphs of the Cross-Reference section alone are sufficient to establish a clear chain of priority from the present application to Serial No. 06/612,588 (U.S. Patent 4,553,081).

With regard to the Examiner's questions regarding certain patent numbers listed on the information disclosure statement, Applicant states that the numbers in question were typographical errors (inventors and dates were correct), and submits herewith a supplemental PTO Form 1449 listing the correct numbers. Applicant apologizes for any inconvenience those errors may have caused the Examiner.

Finally, Applicant also lists on the supplemental PTO Form 1449 submitted herewith, four additional references recently brought to the attention of Applicant by a third party. Two of these additional references are articles (i.e., IECEC '75 Record, pp. 1307-1317 and 12th IECEC, Vol. 1, pp. 302-310, 1977) having common authors, which articles are listed under "Other Documents" on the Supplemental PTO form 1449. These articles appear to be generally directed

to a cell-level battery protection system for a spacecraft. Applicant has reviewed these two articles and believes them to be similar to the Lemelson (4,289,836) reference already considered by the Examiner. Copies of these two articles are enclosed. The other two additional references are patents (i.e., U. S. Patents 4,387,334 and 4,302,714), which Applicant has reviewed and believes to be cumulative of other references before the Examiner.

Nevertheless, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider these four additional references and draw her own conclusion. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees required for consideration of these additional references to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this submission or require copies of the two additional U.S. Patents listed on the PTO form 1449, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (312) 707-8889.

Applicant believes that claims 1-55 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowability is courteously solicited.

Date: 10/2/00



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